Investment in agriculture

*449. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1715 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1995 and state:

(a) what constitutes the investment in agriculture and how it is calculated;

(b) whether it would be possible to increase the investment in agriculture sector in coming period; and

(c) if so, how and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Investment in agriculture referred to as Gross Fixed Capital Formation, includes expenditures on building, improvement and reclamation of land, irrigation works, flood control projects, laying of new orchards and plantations, construction of wells, other irrigation resources, farm houses, barns, animal sheds, etc., agricultural implements, machinery and transport equipments (exclusively used for agriculture) and increments of livestock like breeding stock, draught animals, dairy cattle and other animals raised for wool clipping. Increments in livestock pertaining to other categories of livestock are included under change in stocks. The valuation of various items mentioned above are calculated on the basis of information obtained from different sources, such as, Central/State Budget Documents, Annual Reports of various Undertakings, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The strategy to increase capital formation in agriculture includes enhanced plan outlays and increasing the proportion of planned investment for development of infrastructure, more efficient use of resources to raise productivity and ensuring remunerative prices to farmers to induce them to go for higher investments in agriculture.

Review of vital aspects of SSP

*450. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since reviewed the vital aspects of the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make the Review Report public;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the work of the SSP has since been kept in abeyance?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India constituted a Five Member Group to continue review discussions initiated during the end of June, 1993 on all issues related to the Project. The Group Submitted its report in a sealed cover on 21.7.94 which was made public on 13.12.1994 on the direction of Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court requested the Five Member Group to submit its further report on three aspects of the project, namely, Hydrology, Resettlement & Rehabilitation including environmental aspects and Height of the dam. The Group has submitted its further Report in a sealed cover on 17.4.1995 which is presently under consideration of the Supreme Court.

(d) Not so far.

Reforms in examination system

*451. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring reforms in the existing examination system in the country;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be adopted therefor;

(c) the academic year from which those reformative measures are proposed to be adopted; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986 as modified in 1992 stipulates adoption of certain functional measures to recast the examination system. In the school system, one of such measures is Continuous ad Comprehensve Evaluation (CCE), incorporating both scholastic and non-scholastic aspects. All the functional measures recommended in the NPE including the CCE have been circulated amongst the State/UT Governments and the various Boards of School Education in the country urging them to initiate action towards implementing the NPE recommendations. The basic responsibility of implementing these Examination Reform measures including the CCE is with the Boards in relation to the school system affiliated to each Board. It is expected that with the gradual implementation of the CCE, the dominance of external examinations would be reduced.

In the Higher Education system, the University Grants Commission has been emphasising the implementation of some specific measures of examination reforms like Continuous Internal Evaluation, Development of question banks, Grading system, Semester system, re-designing of syllabi and questions papers and conduct of examinations with a view to improving the reliability, validity and objectivity of evaluation and bringing about a closer integration of teaching, learning and evaluation. The Examination Reform Scheme was recently reviewed and on the basis of the review, certain strategic have been worked out and circulated to the Universities.

Implementation of these examination reforms is a continuing process.

Giani Zail Singh's Memorial

*452. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Pioneer of 15th April, 1995 under the heading, "Zail's Memorial a forgotten project";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have approved the plan for the construction of Samadhi and sanctioned the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred on it; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) when the Samadhi is likely to be constructed and completed and at what cost;

(e) what is the total area of the Rajghat Complex and what is the area allotted to each Samadhi constructed in the Complex; and

(f) what is the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of each Samadhi and by whom these are being looked after?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (d) The report published in the "*Pioneer*" Newspaper of April 15, 1995 referred to in the Question has come to the notice of the Government. There is no such proposal before the Government for the construction of a Samadhi where cremation of the former President took place. However an area of about 3.21 acres around the platform is proposed to be fenced to prevent any encroachment and to maintain the sancity of the place.